



PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10487-1

#22  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Konia  
Serial No.: 09/491,747 Examiner: Karmis, Stefano  
Filed: January 27, 2000 Group Art Unit: 3624  
Title: ONLINE AUCTION BID MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

This Interview Summary is submitted pursuant to M.P.E.P § 713.04 after a telephone interview held on January 28, 2004. The participants in the interview were Examiner Stefano Karmis, Primary Examiner Hani Kazmimi, Applicant Brad Konia, and counsel for Applicant, Ivan Posey. There were no exhibits or demonstrations presented during the interview. Independent claims 1, 11, 23 and 24 were discussed, and the specific prior art discussed was U.S. Patent No. 5,835,896 (*Fisher*), and *Fisher* in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,269,361 (*Davis*).

Applicant has already filed an Amendment And Response ("Response") to the Last Office Action, dated December 23, 2003, on February 4, 2004 containing a summary of the January 28, 2004 interview. However, Applicant received an Examiner's Interview Summary (form PTOL-413) dated February 10, 2004. Applicant submits this Interview Summary as required when Applicant receives an Examiner's Interview Summary subsequent to replying to the last Office Action.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner and the Primary Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant and his counsel in the January 28, 2004 interview. In the interview, the merits of the rejections of the case were discussed. Specifically, the invention was discussed in view of the new rejections of the claims over *Fisher*, and *Fisher* in combination with *Davis*. With respect to independent claims 1 and 11, Applicant's counsel explained that, although *Fisher* does disclose a "proxy bid" system that allows the auction manager to automatically bid on the bidder's behalf, *Fisher*, even in combination with *Davis*, fails to disclose a system or method which checks for whether a bidder's bid is too high for a specific position of priority or ranking that a bidder wishes to maintain in an auction. Further, *Fisher* and *Davis*, alone or in combination, fail to disclose a system or method which automatically decrements or lowers a bid if the bid is found to be higher than needed to maintain a selected position of priority or ranking in an auction.

Applicant's counsel explained that this feature has particular significance in continuous type auctions, such as in search engines where bidders bid on advertising rankings for terms. In non-continuous auctions, bidding occurs for a set period until a product is sold. In continuous auctions, bidding continues indefinitely. In the search engine example, payments may be assessed at the bid price every time a search engine user clicks on the their search engine listing, or every time the bidder's listing is included in a search. Even though savings are realized in a non-continuous auction using the bid-reducing feature of the present invention, in the continuous auction context, savings may be even more pronounced as payments accumulate over time.

Applicant's counsel further explained that, while it is possible in the *Davis* system

to manually check a bid position or ranking (see Col. 19, ll. 38-58), the *Davis* system does not automatically check the bidder's position. Further, *Davis* provides no means to automatically lower a bidder's bid if the bid is higher than necessary to maintain the desired position or ranking for the bidder. Again, especially in the continuous auction context, it would be very time consuming for a bidder to constantly check to see if their bid is at the minimum necessary to maintain their priority position using the *Davis* system, even in view of the newly cited *Fisher* system, which does not have any means for automatically checking and lowering a bidder's bid if the bid is higher than necessary. Without such a feature, if the bidder does not constantly take the time to perform this check, then the bidder may pay considerably more than is necessary to maintain their position.

Applicant's counsel agreed to amend claims 1 and 11 to include the feature of automatically reducing a bid if the bid is found to be higher than needed to maintain a selected position of priority in the auction, and has done so in the February 4, 2004 Response.

With respect to claim 23, Applicant explained that *Fisher* and *Davis*, individually, combined, or in combination with the other cited art, fail to disclose a system for automatically managing bids in an auction in which vendors complete for selling products or services to buyers. The invention of claim 23 provides a system in which a vendor is able to provide information for the system to automatically submit bids for selling, which are automatically lowered if the vendor does not have the desired priority for selling.

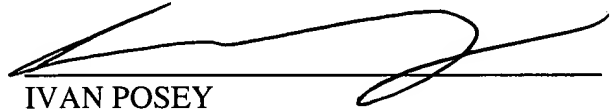
With respect to claims 24-25, the Examiners imposed a Restriction Requirement.

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Applicant's counsel traversed and elected to prosecute claims 1-23 in this application,  
while reserving the right to re-submit claims 24-25 in a divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

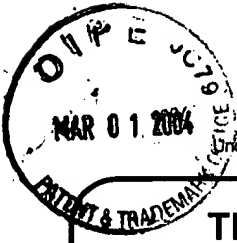
Dated: February 23, 2004



IVAN POSEY  
Reg. No. 43,865  
BROWN RAYSMAN MILLSTEIN FELDER  
& STEINER LLP  
1880 Century Park East, Suite 711  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
(310) 712-8300

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3624



<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number	09/491,747
		Filing Date	01/27/2000
		First Named Inventor	Brad S. Konia
		Art Unit	3624
		Examiner Name	Stefano Karmis
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ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) ____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Interview Summary Return Receipt Postcard
Remarks		

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Ivan Posey
Signature	
Date	02/24/2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Ivan Posey		
Signature		Date	02/24/2004

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